Vol. VII. Numb. 81

THE OBSERVATOR.

More Remarks on the Speech of the Lords Commiſſioners to the Parliament, and particularly on that Part for confirming and improving the Union; towards which, a Law, 1. For ſecuring the Freedom of Elections, ſeems neceſſary. 2. To repeal the Sacramental Teſt. Reflexions on a Libel on the Diviſions in Scotland, *in the Addreſs of the Biſhop and Clergy of* Rapho *in* Ireland, *of the 18th of* Auguſt, 1708. *On the new Victory in* Flanders.

From Saturday, November 20. to Wednesday, November 24. 1708.

Country-m. I Want your farther Thoughts, Maſter, upon the Speech of the Lords Commiſſioners to both Houſes, and particularly that Part of it, which reminds them of preparing ſuch Bills as may conduce to the Confirmation and Improvement of the Union, which her Majeſty eſteems to be ſo happy and great a Part of the Succeſſes of her Reign.

Obſ. I am ſatisfy'd, *Roger*, that an Union betwixt the two Nations, upon the Foot of Equality, is of more Conſequence to our Peace and Security, than all the glorious Victories with which it has pleas'd God to bleſs her Majeſty's Reign, if it be confirm'd and improv'd in ſuch a Manner as it ought to be; but if it happen to be otherwiſe, which God forbid, it may prove to be the greateſt Curſe that ever befel us, and a Handle by which ill-deſigning Men may enſlave the whole Iſland.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, ſince her Majeſty has been graciouſly pleas'd to remind the Houſes of ſuch Bills, and particularly to make the Laws of both Parts of *Great Britain* agree as near as may be, for the common Intereſt of both People, that Care will be taken to prevent the Union's being made a Handle for enſlaving us by ill-deſigning Men.

Obſ. There ſeems to be an abſolute Neceſſity of doing ſo, *Roger*, and particularly, that there be effectual Laws made for ſecuring the Freedom of Elections, both of the Lords and Commons in *North Britain*; and I doubt not, but both Houſes will be ſatisfy'd of this, when the controverted Elections of that Part of the Iſland, come to be heard before them.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, we have had a Pamphlet induſtriouſly ſpread about Town upon that Subject, which reflects upon many Great Men there. I wonder there has been no Anſwer given to it!

Obſ. I have ask'd the Queſtion, *Roger*, before now; but was anſwer'd by thoſe who knew the Matter, That the Pamphlet you ſpeak of, contain'd ſo much Falſhood and Malice, and was writ with ſo little of the Air of a Gentleman, that it was below any Body's Regard; for every one might ſee, that it was the poor Effort of a Party, that have made themſelves really as odious to their Country, as they endeavour to make others; and being conſcious to themſelves, that they would be ſufficiently expos'd, when their own Practices came to be known, they reſolv'd to cry out firſt, and put that weak Scribbler upon ſlandering many of the greateſt and beſt Men in that Country; of which, I doubt not, many of the greateſt and beſt Men here are very ſenſible. But I return to the Neceſſity of ſecuring the Freedom of Elections there.

Country-m. Pray do, Maſter; for we always look'd upon that in *England* to be one of the fundamental Securities of our Liberty; and in the late arbitrary Reigns, our Courts were ſo ſenſible of it, that in order to overturn our Conſtitution, they endeavour'd to get the returning Officer into their own Power; and this was the chief Deſign; for which, the Project of ſurrendring Charters, and garbling Corporations, was ſet on Foot.

Obſ. You are perfectly in the Right, honeſt *Roger*; and we have Reaſon to think, that the Party for whom the Libeller above-mention'd, writes, had much the ſame Deſign, in order to have ſecur'd their Intereſt with any future Court, ſince they made ſuch a Struggle to prevent the aboliſhing the *Scotch* Privy-Council, in whom the Power of returning the Members of *North Britain* was lodg'd: But it was happy that the united Parliament foreſaw the Snare, and generouſly broke it. This appears to be the chief Cauſe of the Rage of the Libeller and his Faction againſt thoſe Noble Patriots, whom he abuſes under the Name of the *Squadrone*; by which we may gueſs what true Friends he and his Faction are to the *Britiſh* Liberties at Bottom, and what Work they would have made with the Elections in that Part of the Iſland, could they have got their arbitrary Privy-Council continu'd with the Power of Returns, and to have taken up all ſuch Candidates as they thought would oppoſe their Meaſures, under the Notion of being diſaffected Perſons.

Country-m. In my Opinion, Maſter, that looks to have been a very dangerous Plot againſt our Conſtitution: And ſince the laſt Parliament happily defeated it, I hope the preſent Parliament will take Care, by effectual Laws, to prevent the like in Time to come, and put it out of the Power of any future Court or Faction to return ſuch 16 Lords and 45 Commons from thence, as they think fit; otherwiſe 61 Lords and Commons from *Scotland*, to join a Court-Party here, in caſe we ſhould fall under the Calamity of having a Prince that aims at arbitrary Power, may form a ſtrong Squadron indeed againſt the *Britiſh* Liberties.

Obſ. You argue very juſtly, *Roger*; therefore 'tis my humble Opinion, that a Law to ſecure the Freedom of Elections there from all undue Influence, ſeems to be neceſſary towards confirming and improving the Union; and that ſuch as for Time to come ſhall make Uſe of Threats for any Body's oppoſing the King or Queen's Servants at Elections, and ſuch as ſplit Freeholds, by counterfeit Sales, to purchaſe Votes, or promiſe Commiſſions, Places, or Penſions, or make Uſe of Bribes for that End, ſhall be ſeverely puniſh'd, as Betrayers of the Conſtitution.

Country-m. In my Opinion, Maſter, thoſe who adviſe to ſuch Practices, or make Uſe of 'em, are very unfit to have any Share in the Adminiſtration; for, let 'em pretend what Zeal for the Union they pleaſe, 'tis evident, that Perſons who have repreſented our fundamental Liberties as Incroachments on the Prerogative, can intend nothing at Bottom, but an Union in Slavery, which 'tis the Part of every honeſt Man to abhor and oppoſe.

Obſ. Since her Majeſty has been graciouſly pleas'd to propoſe, *Roger*, that the Laws of both Parts of *Great Britain* ſhould be made to agree as near as may be, for the common Intereſt of both People, to me it ſeems highly reaſonable, that as there is no Sacramental Teſt in *Scotland*, there ſhould be none in *England*; for ſince the Church of *Scotland* is as much ſettl'd by Law, as ours, 'tis but juſt, that her Members ſhould be made equally capable of

of all Posts in the Government, with those of our Church; and so much the more, that their own great Offices of State are abolish'd by the Union; otherwise the Church of *Scotland* can never think herself fully secur'd, especially since there's a Spirit of Malice so rampant against her, and those of her Way, both in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; of which we had a late Instance from *Drogheda*. But I am glad to hear, *Roger*, that the Judges of *Ireland* have done that Justice to Mr. *Bigger*, who was imprison'd there, which it seems he was not to expect from their high-flying Clergy; and now you see another Instance of invenom'd Malice, in the Address of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese of *Rapho*, in that Kingdom, printed in the *Post-Boy* of *Tuesday* last, wherein they asperse the Presbyterians in the *North* of that Kingdom, as being for the Repeal of those Laws which are the Bulwark against Popery, tho' all the World knows, that those very Men have always been the chief Bulwark against it in that Country, and may justly be said, without an Hyperbole, to have prevented its over spreading all the *British* Dominions, by the Stand they made against the late King, and his *French* and Popish Army, at *Londonderry*, and the noble Exploits they perform'd afterwards by themselves, and under the Conduct of that Great and Brave General, Lord *George Hamilton*, now Earl of *Orkney*, and others; yet these Clergy-men have Malice enough to misrepresent them, as if they would be her Majesty's Enemies, tho' they concurr'd so gallantly in the Revolution; which, had it not succeeded, her Majesty had no Reason ever to expect any other Crown, but that of Martyrdom; and this gave her just Cause to make an happy Escape from her Father's Court, and to join these who had taken up Arms in Defence of that Religion, which is given us from Heaven.

Country-m. Why, truly, Master, I think it such a Piece of impotent Malice, as has scarce a President, to brand the Presbyterians in the *North* of *Ireland*, as her Majesty's Enemies, when they are known to be of the same Principles, as well as of the same Lineage with those in *Scotland*, who so universally testify'd their Loyalty against the Pretender. But here's a Book for you, Master, which I doubt not will be a farther Whet to the Malice of those *Irish* Clergy-men, especially when they know that it is writ by a young Gentleman of their own Country; for, in my Opinion, it contains such Arguments against the Sacramental Test, from the declar'd Doctrine of the Church of *England*, as 'twill be more easy for those Clergy-men to cavil at, than to answer. The Title is thus, Master: *A Letter from a Gentleman in* Scotland, *to his Friend in* England, *against the Sacramental Test, as inconsistent with the Union; dangerous to the Ecclesiastical Constitution of* North Britain, *and to such Parts of their civil Constitution as are reserv'd to them; inconsistent with the civil Interest of* Great Britain *in general; contrary to the Design of our Saviour's Institution of the Lord's Supper, and to the Doctrine of the Church of* England. But you must defer your Opinion of it 'till another Time, for I have got a brave Fighting-Story for you from *Flanders*, where our heroick Generals, and gallant Army, have bang'd the *French* to Purpose.

Obs. I rejoyce at it with all my Heart, *Roger*; but am of Opinion, that it will be a very ungrateful Return to the God of Victories, if so great and so useful a Body of fellow Protestants as the Dissenters here, and the Presbyterians in *Scotland* and *Ireland*, be suffer'd to continue under such Marks of Bondage and Ignominy, as the Sacramental Test puts upon them. But pray tell me the Particulars of this great Victory, *Roger*?

Country-m. We have nothing yet publish'd by Authority, Master; but there's an Express from General *Earl* at *Ostend*, That the Elector of *Bavaria* had attack'd *Brussels* several Times, wherein he was repuls'd with Loss, and in the last Attack had 1500 Men kill'd, among whom were 4 Colonels; but the City was just about capitulating when the Elector receiv'd the News, That the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* had pass'd the *Scheld*, defeated the *French* Troops in their Lines, took 70 Cannon, and their Baggage, and about 17 Battalions Prisoners; upon which, the Elector retir'd towards *Namur*; and our Troops were pursuing the flying Enemy on all Sides, both towards *Brabant* and *Flanders*: Of which, I hope to give you a full Account the next Time we meet.

Advertisements.

Just publish'd,

¶ Æsop at Oxford; or, A few select Fables in Verse, under the following Heads, viz. Æsop Matriculated. Æsop's Thanks. Æsop's Case. The Pay-master general. The famous History of Goodman I did it. The Paradox. The Devil on two Sticks. The Female Hypocrite. A notable Allie. A Present for a Courtier. Worse and worse. Whitehall and St. James's. A Woman that did Good once in her Life. Diamonds cut Diamonds. The Foreigner. The Modern Convert. Moderation in Miniature. The Picture of an Ecclesiastick. The General Peace. One that lost his Life for being out of Danger. The Way of the World. The Case is alter'd. The Cure worse than the Disease. Sauce for a Goose, Sauce for a Gander. The shortest Way with the Dissenters. The Royal Mourner. The Candidates. The Conclusion. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price one Shilling.

Just publish'd,

¶ The Wooden-World dissected, in the Characters of, 1. A Ship of War. 2. A Sea-Captain. 3. A Sea-Lieutenant. 4. A Sea-Chaplain. 5. The Master of a Ship of War. 6. The Purser. 7. The Surgeon. 8. The Gunner. 9. The Carpenter. 10. The Boatswain. 11. A Sea-Cook. 12. A Midship-man. 13. The Captain's Steward. 14. A Sailor, &c. By a Lover of the Mathematicks. The second Edition, corrected and amended by the Author. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price bound 1 s.

Just publish'd,

1. An Elegy on the much lamented Death of his Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark, price 1 d. 2. Windsor-Castle, a Poem, inscribed to the Queen, price 6 d. 3. The Honour and Advantage of Great Britain, in a general Act of Redemption for insolvent Debtors, humbly offer'd to the Consideration of the Parliament. 4. Monsr. Drelincourt's Controversies betwixt the Romish and Reform'd Churches, epitomiz'd, and done into English. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Where may be had, Poetical Reflections on the Vices and Follies of the Age, 8 Parts, price 6 d. each.

Just publish'd,

*** A brief Treatise of the Eyes; wherein not only the Structure of the same is Anatomically demonstrated; but the Diseases (which for the most part are incident thereto) are likewise distinctly describ'd. To which is added, some particular Directions for preserving the Sight. Together with a Table, explaining the Terms of Art made Use of in the Treatise; thereby rendering the same intelligible and useful to all Persons. By W. Grosse, Practitioner of Physick, and Oculist. Price bound 1 s. *** Ignoramus. Comœdia coram Rege Jacobo & Totius Angliæ Magnatibus per Academicos Cantabrigienses habita. Editio quinta, a MSS. emendatior. Autore Mro. Ruggle, Aulæ Clarensis, A. M. Price bound 1 s. 6 d. Both sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

Just publish'd,

¶ An Enquiry into the Causes of the Prohibition of Commerce with France, during the present War: And whether, upon a Recapitulation, they will appear considerable enough to carry it against a free Importation, either immediately from thence, or from some Neighbouring Country, which being in Amity with us, and maintaining an open Correspondence thither, are capable of supplying us. With an Account of the fraudulent Methods usually taken to cheat her Majesty of her Customs. And Proposals for preventing the same. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater Noster Row. price 6 d.

¶ Dr. Anderson's, or the famous Scots Pills, are, by her Majesty's Authority, faithfully prepar'd only by Mrs. Inglish from Edinburgh, now living at the Unicorn, over against the Watch-house, near the May-pole in the Strand, London. And to prevent Counterfeits from Scotland, as well as in and about Town, you are desir'd to take Notice, that the true Pills have their Boxes seal'd on the Top in black Wax, with a Lyon rampant, and three Mullets argent, Dr. Anderson's Head betwixt I. I with his Name round it, and Isabella Inglish underneath the Shield, in a Scroll. They are of excellent Use, to be taken with Epsom, Tunbridge, or other Medicinal Waters. Beware of Counterfeits, especially of an ignorant Pretender, one Mussen, who keeps a China-Shop, within three Doors of me, and sells a notorious Counterfeit, instead of the true Pills. I Inglish.

¶ Compleat Sets of the Observator, or single ones, ever since it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars; where may be had Mr. Tutchin's Effigies, neatly engraven on Copper.

LONDON, Printed for the Use of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.